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opposite edge parallel with it." With these directions as an example of clearness, the accounts of numerical aperture and polarized light may best be imagined. Students will find the "too voluminous" "works of reference" of Carpenter, Gage and Lee not rendered less useful by the appearance of "Biological Laboratory Methods."

H. W. R.

ZOÖLOGY.

Sexual Dimorphism.—Sexual dimorphism among animals and the evolution of secondary sexual characters form the subject matter of an interesting volume by Cunningham.¹ The author points out the inadequacy of natural selection as an explanation of the very constant characters upon which animal classification is based in that it must be admitted that many of these characters are of no obvious advantage to their possessors. He next turns his attention to secondary sexual characters and claims that here too that special form of selection called by Darwin sexual selection is ineffective because again the differences are not of a kind to afford a basis for the selective process. In his opinion the origin of these characters has been due to Lamarckian factors. It must be admitted that the influence of the environment profoundly changes animals. Those changes that occur at the breeding season are dependent upon the changes of habits characteristic of that period. They consequently form the basis for the evolution of secondary sexual characters. That these changes may be inherited is well known, hence we should not deny that they are examples of the inheritance of acquired characters because we are ignorant of the method by which their inheritance is accomplished. From this standpoint the author reviews a large range of secondary sexual characters from the mammals to the lowest metazoa in which such characters are known. While the line of argument will probably not be convincing to even the milder Weismannians, the wide range of illustrations brought together by the author will afford interesting reading to every zoölogist.

¹ Cunningham, J. T. *Sexual Dimorphism in the Animal Kingdom*. London. Black, 1900. 8vo, xii + 317 pp., figs.